

Progress Towards A Benchtop Energetics Capability (BRIEFING CHARTS)

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Progress Towards a Benchtop Energetics Capability

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Abstract



The incorporation of nanometric (sub-micron size) metal fuel and oxidizer particles into energetic materials is a promising approach to increasing significantly the systems-level performance of munitions. We propose to exploit the phenomenon of laser driven shock initiation of energetic materials to enable bench-scale testing of initiation mechanisms and energy-release reaction kinetics of nanometric energetic materials using methods which utilize a minimum of often rare and expensive energetic materials, and which routinely yield rapid repetitive energetic events. Direct laser initiation of energetic materials involves a complicated combination of shock, electronic, and thermal effects which are very difficult to relate to real-world chemical-explosive-driven initiation processes. We will use laser driven flyer plates to decouple the laser photon flux from the energetic material, reducing interference from direct electronic and thermal initiation mechanisms, thus greatly simplifying matters. The technology for producing laser driven flyers is advancing rapidly, thanks to efforts in a number of laboratories around the world. We will exploit as much of the state-of-the-art as feasible, including the use of advanced numerical simulation techniques to model our benchtop experiments. We will adapt the "nanoshock target array" approach, pioneered by Dlott and coworkers, for generating repetitive energetic events. In this method thin films of energetic materials are prepared on a transparent substrate "target coupon" which is rastered mechanically through the fixed focus of a pulsed laser beam. Our novel adaptation will include the laser driven flyer plate intermediate and a target-in-vacuum capability. The expansion of reaction intermediates into vacuum will quench subsequent reactions and preserve these intermediates for spectroscopic and mass spectrometric interrogation. Conversely, we will also employ buffer gases and "glass confined" experimental geometries as necessary to permit longer reaction times. The spectroscopic diagnostics will permit testing of common modeling assumptions, such as local thermodynamic equilibrium, and will be capable of measuring conditions in the reaction flow.



Introduction



"Insensitive Munitions (IM) are conventional weapons and ordnance that fulfill their performance objectives while minimizing collateral damage if exposed to stimuli including fires, impact and shock threats." (emphasis added)

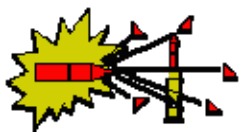
"The statutory requirement for IM is set forth in U.S. Code, Title 10, Subtitle A, Part IV, Chapter 141, Section 2389..."

Department of Defense Acquisition Manager's Handbook for Insensitive Munitions

January 2004, Revision 01



bullet
impact



fragment
impact



fast
cook-off



slow
cook-off



sympathetic
detonation



shaped-charge
jet impact

NATO Munitions Safety Information Analysis Center (MSIAC) Website



Research Strategy



Premise: the rational design and evaluation of new insensitive energetic materials will require an improved *fundamental* understanding of their initiation mechanisms and energy-release reaction kinetics.

Challenges: (1) real world explosively driven events are extremely complex, scale-dependent phenomena.
(2) current full-scale testing protocols are slow, do not yield direct information on pertinent chemistry, and novel formulations often use rare and costly ingredients.

Approaches: (1) mimic conditions found in a small slice of space and time within a reacting energetic material.
(2) benchtop initiation of small samples combined with advanced spectroscopic diagnostics.



Objective / Payoff



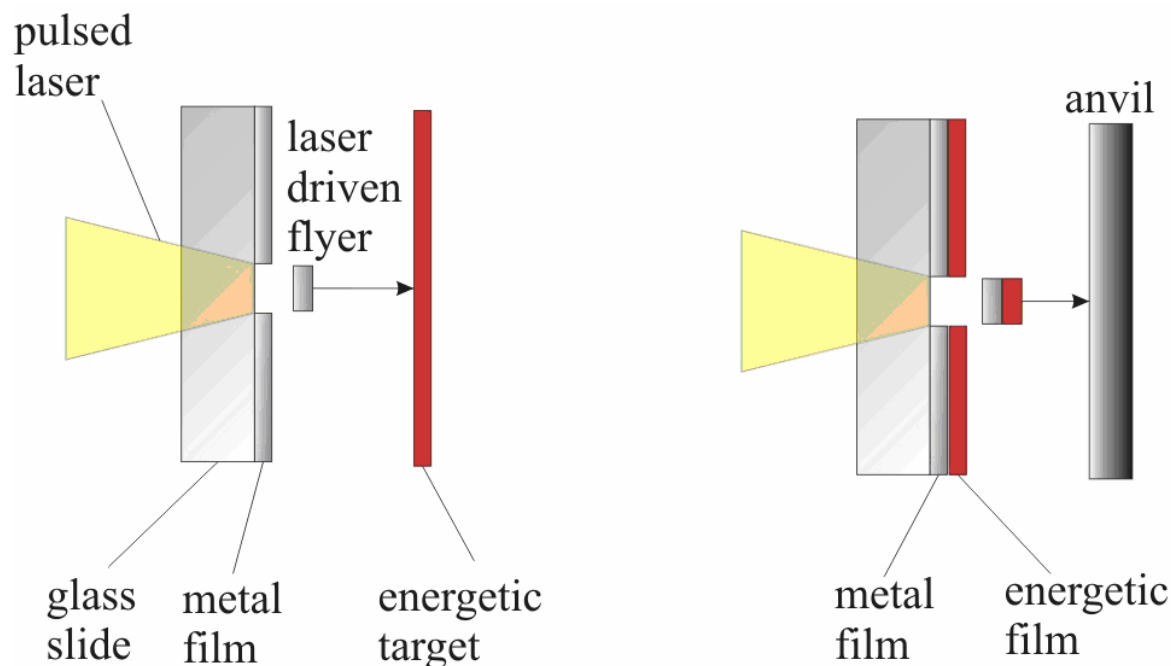
- Develop laboratory bench-scale techniques to characterize the initiation mechanisms and reaction kinetics of candidate nanometric insensitive energetic materials.
- Enable rapid, safe, inexpensive, bench-scale testing of candidate energetic materials, including ones available only in sub-gram quantities.



Approach: Overview



- Nanosecond (ns) pulsed laser driven shocks & flyer plates
- High speed photography using 5 ns gated ICCD camera
- NanoEnergetic material film targets or coated substrates
- Spectroscopic diagnostics to monitor reaction kinetics

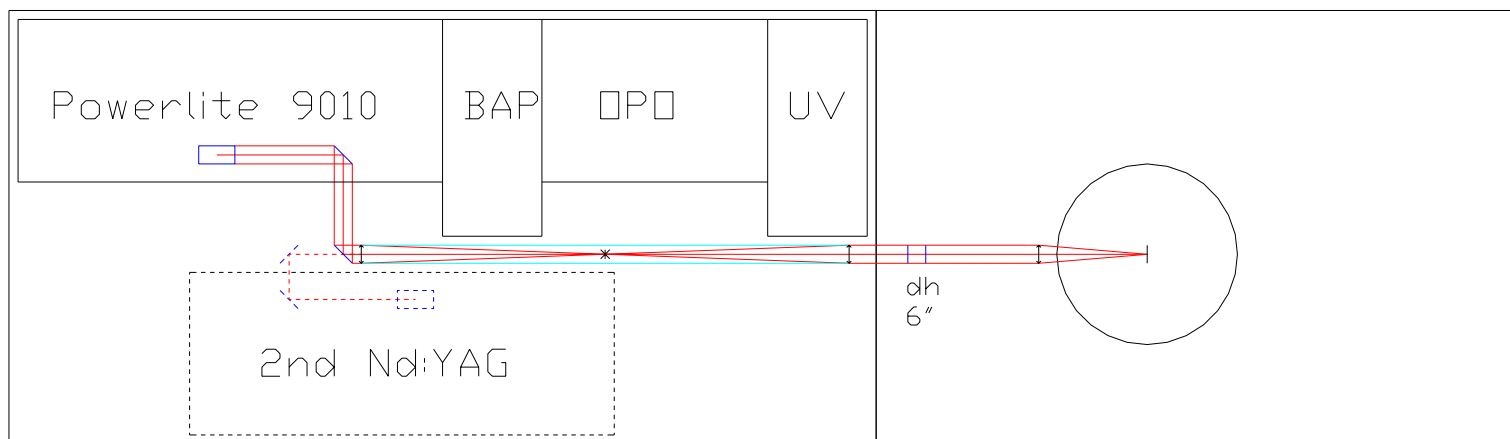




Approach: Laser



relay imaging with 0.6875 m (27.1") f.l. lenses



- Use relay imaging to deliver top-hat intensity profile to final focusing optics outside of vacuum chamber.
- Investigating techniques for delivering focused top-hat profile at target: custom aspheric lenses, telescopes, diffractive beam shapers, etc...

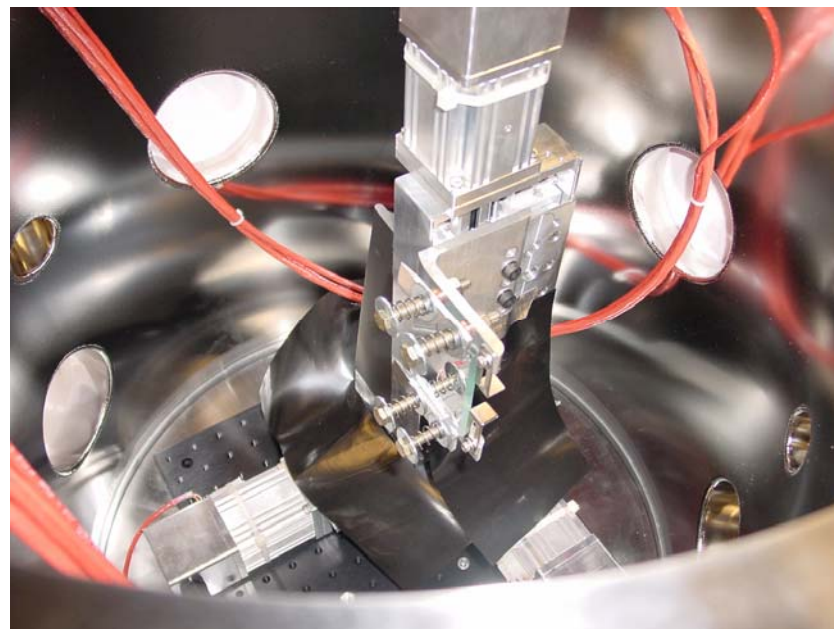


Approach: Sample In Vacuum



Main experimental vacuum chamber in place, assembled, and initial pump-down accomplished.

Expansion into vacuum preserves intermediates for spectroscopic interrogation.
Reflectron TOFMS on order.





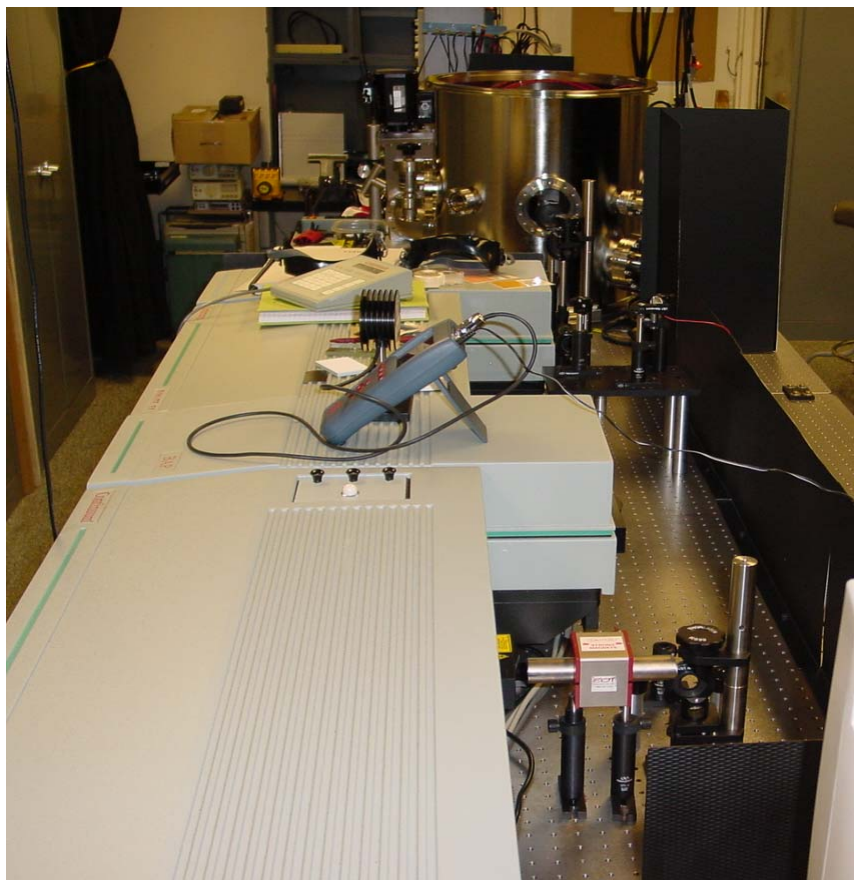
Approach: Diagnostics



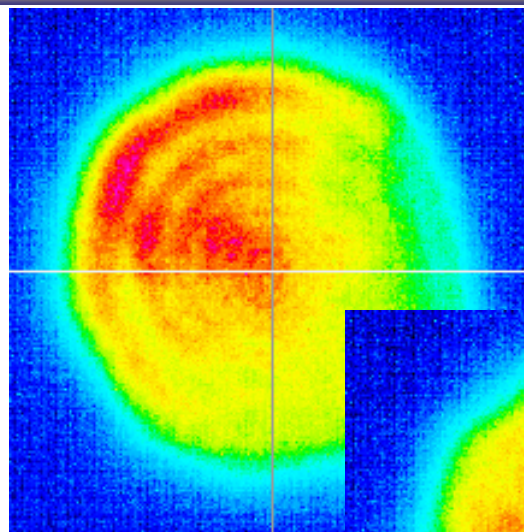
- High speed photography with IgCCD camera
 - telecentric lenses
- Single-shot spectroscopies:
 - time-gated dispersed emission & LIF
 - transient absorption
 - electron-impact ionization TOFMS
- Reproducible, repetitive events:
 - LIF excitation
 - cavity ring-down
 - REMPI TOFMS
- Mechanical analysis of recovered flyers/targets



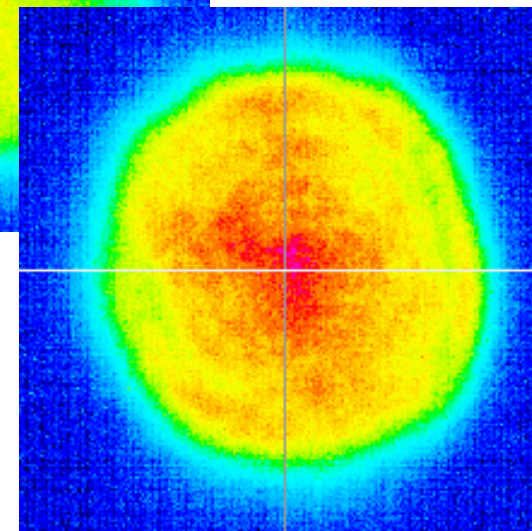
Progress: Laser



Main optical layout established.



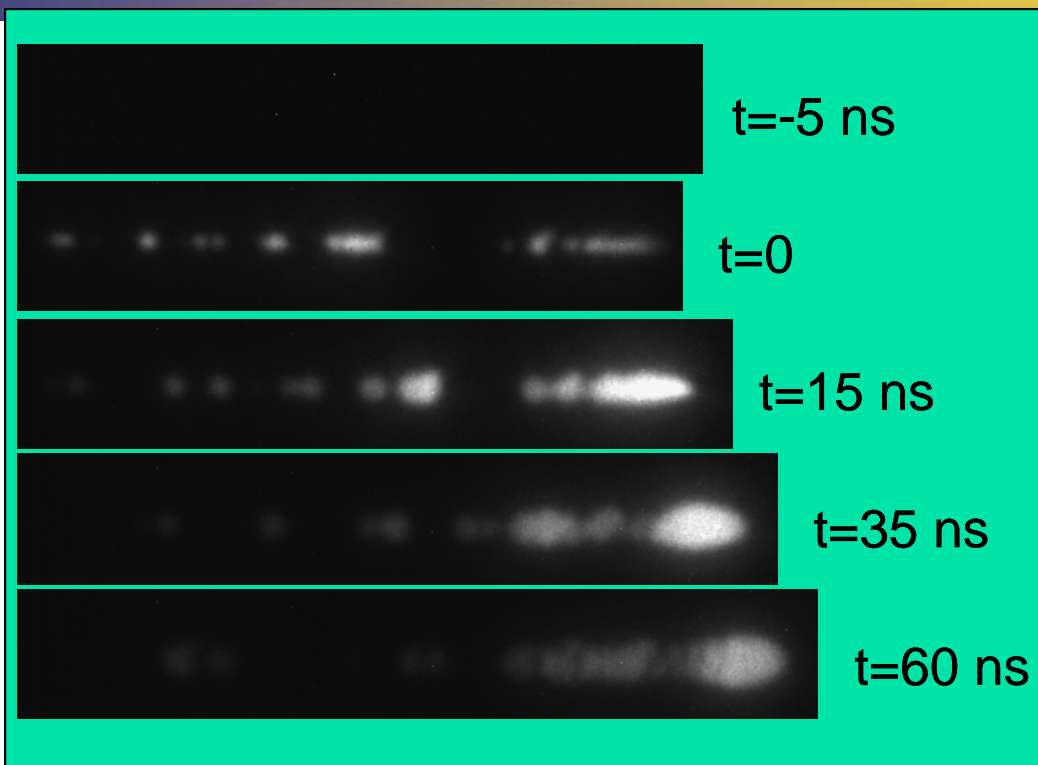
Beam
diagnostic
in place.



**Laser beam profile
diffraction-degraded \Rightarrow
relay imaging optics.**



Progress: IgCCD Camera



10 ns
intensifier
gating

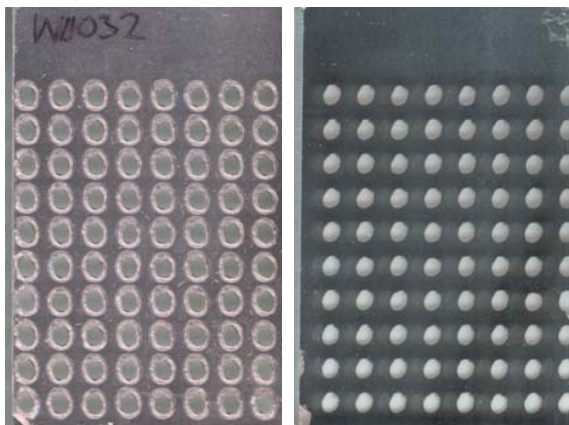
Dielectric breakdown in air at laser beam waist.

Plasma expands laterally at $v = 14(\pm 3)$ km/s !

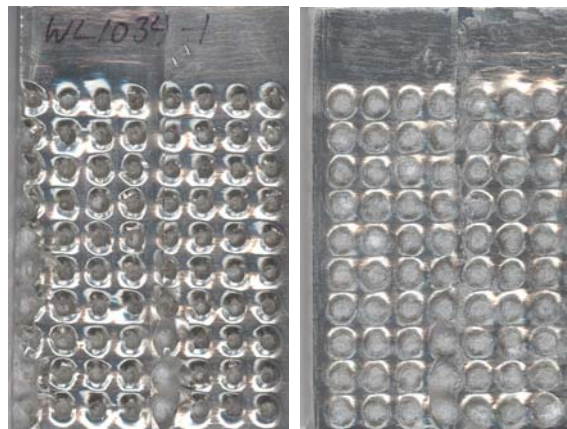
$KE(N^+ @ 14\text{km/s}) = 14 \text{ eV}.$



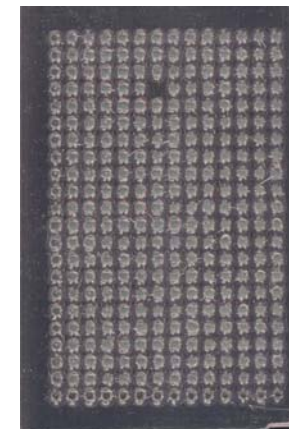
Progress: Samples



**Soda-lime glass
substrates
transmit >600
MW/cm² (!).
Inexpensive,
rugged target
coupons.**



**Plate-glass
substrates
badly damaged by
dielectric
breakdown;
reject for further
use.**



**14x22=308
events/coupon**

**@ 10 Hz \Rightarrow
5 min/coupon**

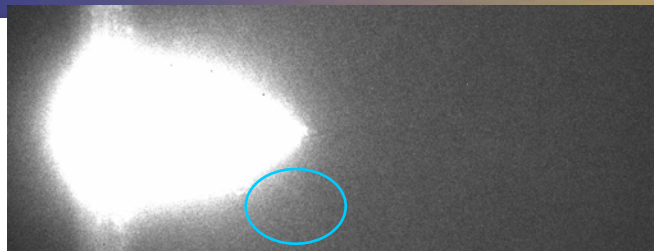


Progress: Launching "flyers"



delay

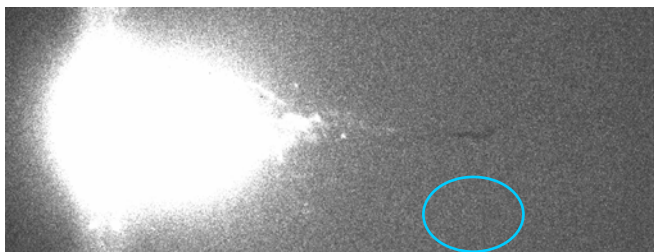
10 μ s



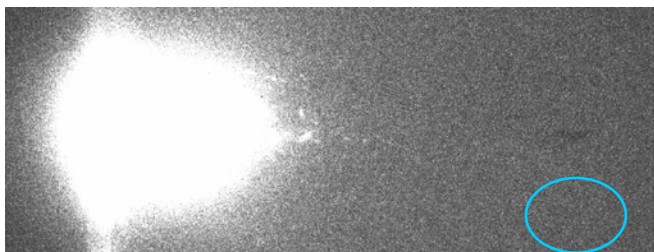
15 μ s



20 μ s



25 μ s



Polymer-coated glass mirror in air

Laser-driven exploding foil regime:

$$d_{\text{foil}} \approx \lambda_{\text{laser}} \approx 1 \mu\text{m}$$

$$I_{\text{laser}} \approx 600 \text{ MW/cm}^2$$

Nominally "identical," repetitive events

Reproducible enough to calculate polymer "flyer" velocity:

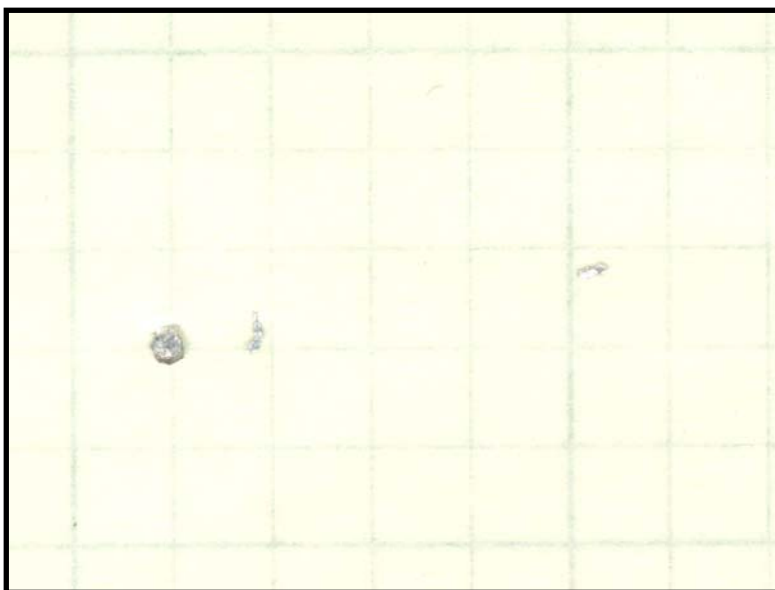
$$930 \pm 50 \text{ m/s}$$

**Badly distorted non-planar "flyers,"
must fix laser beam profile,
and relay-image beam**

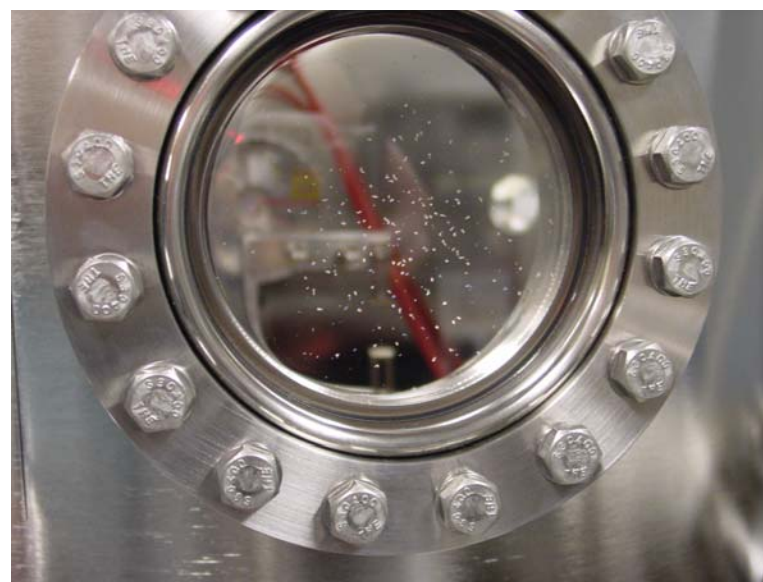
\Rightarrow "top-hat" profile at target



Progress: Recovered "flyers"



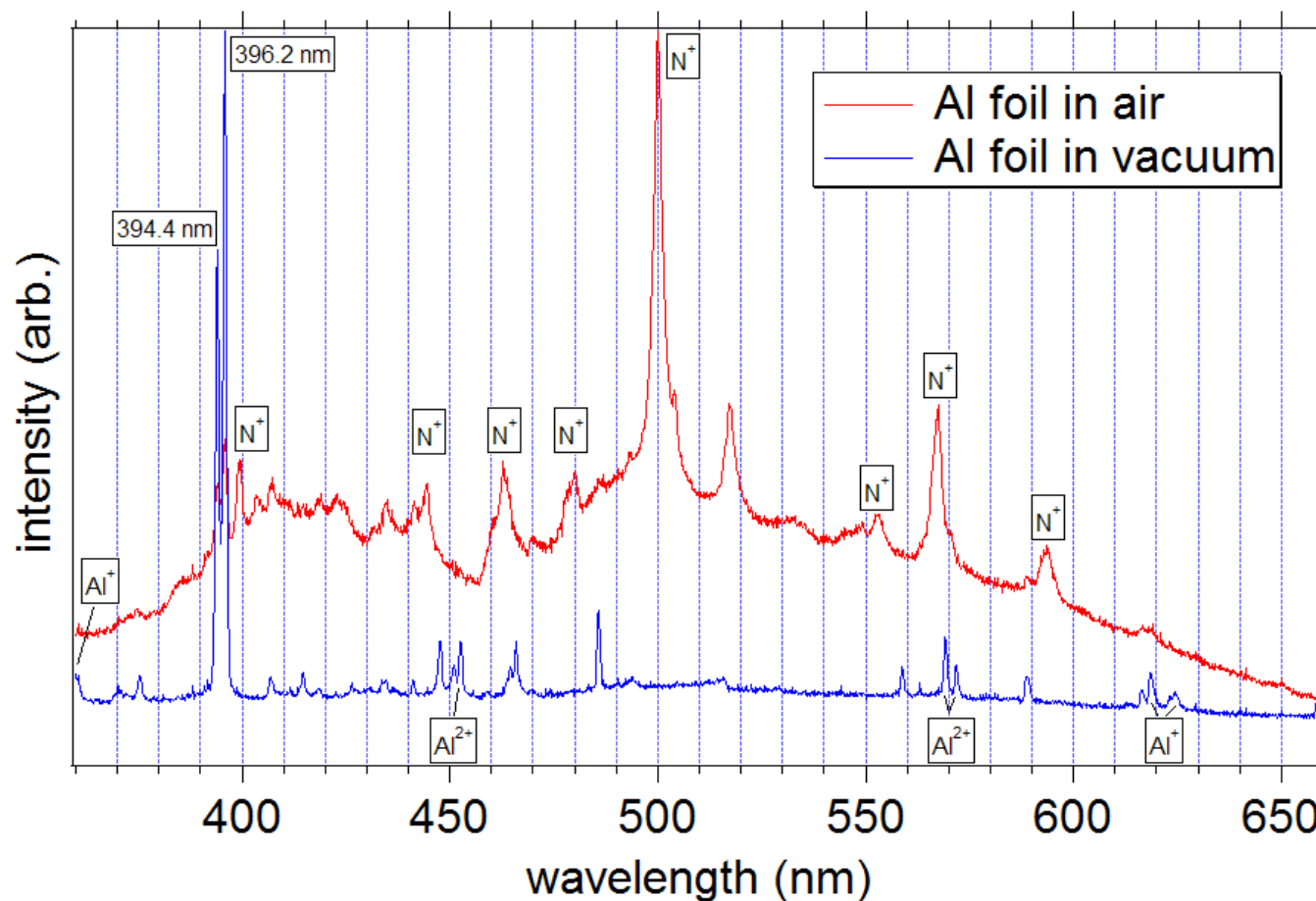
Al foil flyer recovered after transiting ≈ 5 cm in air and penetrating several pages into engineering pad.



Polyethylene "flyers" stuck to vacuum chamber window after transiting ≈ 30 cm in air.



Progress: Spectroscopy



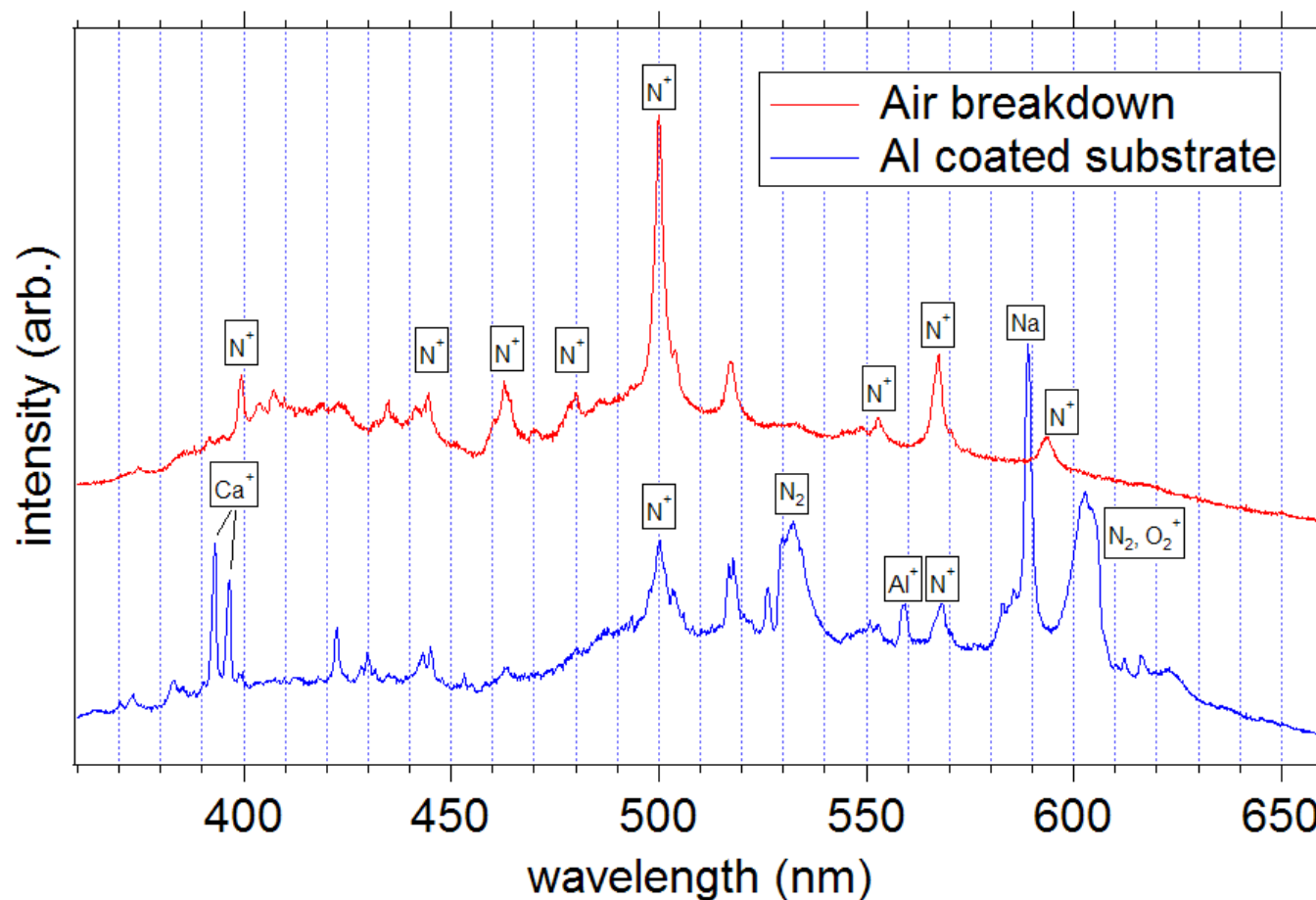
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Progress: Spectroscopy



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Future Directions



- **Procure dedicated flyer-driving laser; is 2 J sufficient?**
 - demonstrate initiation of energetic material.
- **Explore laser target and sample preparation techniques.**
- **Demonstrate launch of planar flyers; photograph.**
- **Time-gated and spatially-resolved emission spectroscopy with gICCD+monochromator.**
- **Computational modeling of flyer launch process;**
 - Dr. Y. Horie (MNME) & Prof. K. Gonthier (LSU)
- **Incorporate Reflectron TOFMS.**
- **Develop advanced laser-based diagnostics;**
 - broad-band nonlinear optical mixing (e.g. CARS).